



**U. S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Eastern District of Washington*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b>
Friday, September 05, 2008	Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767

### **“METH DEALER GETS OVER 20 YEARS IN PRISON”**

Yakima – James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that Jose Luis Manzo, age 32, of Yakima, Washington, was sentenced to 292 months in prison for distributing methamphetamine and conspiring to possess pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine. He will be on court supervision for 5 years after his release from prison.

The Court ordered forfeiture of \$301,110 to the United States. 80% of the net funds seized will be used for law enforcement and be shared with the local law enforcement partners.

Mr. Manzo was the subject of a lengthy investigation that included the Manzo Drug Trafficking Organization. The organization was a large-scale distributor of methamphetamine in the Yakima area, headed by Mr. Manzo’s brother, Jesus Manzo. He is scheduled to be sentenced next month for distribution of methamphetamine. During February 2007, Manzo delivered 1/2 pound of methamphetamine to a DEA informant in a parking lot in Yakima's West Valley neighborhood. In April 2007, Manzo organized an attempted purchase of 86 cases of pseudoephedrine, a key precursor ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine. The quantity was enough to produce from 80 to 140 pounds of the drug. The delivery was to occur at a hotel in Clackamas, Oregon. Agents raided the hotel room, finding Mr. Manzo and others, in addition to \$301,110 in currency. At the time, Mr. Manzo was under federal court supervision for a bulk cash smuggling conviction in the Western District of Washington. That conviction was the result of Mr. Manzo and a relative previously attempting to transport over \$140,000 in currency into Canada near Blaine, Washington.

James A. McDevitt, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, said, “Our law enforcement partners are to be congratulated for preventing a significant amount of drugs from being distributed into our community. As well, the criminal profits will be shared with our local law enforcement partners to continue the fight. ”

The prosecution was a joint Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation led by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, with assistance from the Yakima City/County Narcotics Unit, Washington State Patrol and Oregon State Police. This case was prosecuted by Shawn Anderson, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington.

07-CR-2042-WFN

07-CR-2071-WFN

07-CR-2088-WFN